STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A task force on "Electronics for Health care" has been set up by Department of Electronics (DoE) in August 1988 with 15 members.

(b) The Task Force has the following terms of reference:—

(1) The requirement of electronics in health care for the Eighth and Ninth Plans as also to seek a target for the year 2000.

(2) To study the various manufacturing facilities available in the country and to identify the requirement of specific components and equipment that would be required to meet the demand of the Electronic Health Care Equipment.

(3) To study the existing Import Policy and duty structure on imported equipment vis-a-vis indegenous manuafcture, especially the anomaly of zero import duty on finished imported equipment vis-a-vis 40—250 per cent import duty on components and sub-assemblies for the same and to suggest suitable remedies.

(4) To look at various excise and sales tax applicable to manufacutred products and to suggest means of bringing them in line with similar duties on imported equipment.

(5) To interface with the Ministry of Health to suggest ways and means for setting up district health care centres equipped with mostmodern electronic equipment in health care so as to disperse the benefit of modern Health Care to the rural poor.

(c) Task Force is expected to submit its report by the end of November, 1988. Concrete programme will be evolved thereafter.

Financial assistance for flood control work

447 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent problem of floods could have been effectively controlled;

(b) whether the Union Government have considered and have taken final decision to provide Central help to control floods and the devastation that has been caused due to these floods; and

(c) if so, what are the main proposals being considered by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) Flood management measures are taken in anticipation of a certain level of floods. In case of floods of unprecedented nature such as one that occurred in some areas during the last monsoon, the cost-effectiveness of the measures that can be taken include flood warnings and better regulation of economic activities in the flood-prone zones, in addition to such structural measures as may be possible at specific locations. Even though the primary responsibility for flood management and maintenance of flood control structures rests with the State Government, the Central Government has been extending all technical assistance, flood warnings and also give loan assistance to the State of Assam and on a few projects to other States. Central Government has also established the Brahmaptra Board and the Ganga Flood Control Commission for integrated planning of flood management works and measures.

Family Welfare Programmes

448. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article in the October 31, 1988 issue of "India Today" in which the great hoax of family welfare programmes has been exposed;

(b) whether Government are aware that though this hoax not only Government are being fed with false figures of achievement but large amounts of money are also being swindled; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to streamline the system and prevent mis-use of funds for the purpose?